

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 IO-13 SS-15 NSC-10 AID-20 CEA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5769

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EAGR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: A. LUXEMBOURG 667 B. EC BRUSSELS 53-1

1. SUMMARY: THE SEPTEMBER SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS HELD IN LUXEMBOURG SEPTEMBER 18-20. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT OPENED THE SESSION WITH A STATEMENT REGARDING CHILE AND THE SUPPRESSION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION: THE PARLIAMENT THEN DISCUSSED COMECON (CEMA)-EC RELATIONS (THESE SUBJECTS COVERED IN SEPTTEL). THE PARLIAMENT ALSO DISCUSSED THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHIRAC AFFAIR, AMERICAN SOYBEAN DELIVERIES AND THE FUTURE LOCATION

OF THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CHIRAC AFFAIR: DURING THE QUESTION HOUR, DUTCH SOCIALIST BROEKEZ ASKED EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI TO COMMENT ON THE PERSONAL ATTACK MADE EARLIER BY FRENCH AGRICULTURE MINISTER CHIRAC ON COMMISSION MEMBERS CHEYSSON, SOAMES, AND LARDINOIS AND GERMAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ERTL. IN A CAREFULLY WORDED RESPONSE, ORTOLI SAID THAT NATIONAL MINISTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS AND THAT THEY MAY NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH COMMISSION PROPOSALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE REGRETTED THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSIDERING NATIONAL INTERESTS. HE STATED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD REMINDED THE MEMBER STATES BEFORE THE SUMMER RECESS OF THE OATH COMMISSION MEMBERS TAKE TO BE INDEPENDENT FROM NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND THAT MEMBER STATES ACCEPT THAT INDEPENDENCE. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE COMMISSION IS A COLLEGIAL BODY AND ALL OF ITS MEMBERS ABIDE BY ALL COMMISSION DECISIONS.

3. BROEKSZ AND GERMAN SOCIALIST FELLERMAIER RESPONDED THAT CHIRAC'S STATEMENTS WERE DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT AND THAT MEMBER STATE MINISTERS MUST REMEMBER THEIR POSITIONS WHEN BEING CRITICAL OF EC MATTERS. ORTOLI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO RESPOND FOR THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT (FOR THE ATTACK ON ARTL), BUT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION HE WISHED TO SAY THAT WHILE FRANK DISAGREEMENT WOULD SOMETIMES OCCUR, THERE COULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE COLLEGIAL NATURE OF COMMISSION POSITIONS.

4. AMERICAN SOYBEAN DELIVERIES: DURING A DEBATE LATER IN THE DAY ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS, BRITISH CONSERVATIVE MEMBER SCOTT-HOPKINS ASKED EC COMMISSIONER LARDINOIS, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE, TO COMMENT ON THE DIFFICULT POSITION THE COMMUNITY FOUND ITSELF IN WHEN THE UNITED STATES BROKE (SIC) ITS CONTRACTS REGARDING SOYBEAN DELIVZRIES. LARDINOIS REPLIED THAT THE RESCINDING OF SOME CONTRACTS HAD OCCURRED IN A MOMENT OF PANIC BUT THAT IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS AT THAT TIME FACING DIFFICULT DECISIONS. HE AGREED THAT THE RESCINDING OF CONTRACTS IN AN INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE SYSTEM WOULD CAUSE FAR MORE HARM THAN A DILLON ROUND, A KENNEDY ROUND, AND A NIXON ROUND COULD DO TOGETHER TO FACILITATE TRADE. HE SAID THE EC IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT MARKET FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

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AND SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE A PREFERENTIAL POSITION, COMPARABLE TO THAT OF THE U.S. CUSTOMER. IF THIS IS NOT TO BE SO, THE EC WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER DEVELOPING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PROTEINS, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD MEAN GREAT SACRIFICES AND HIGHER PRICES TO EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS.

5. LARDINOIS WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW HAD THE COURAGE TO EXPOSE ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO WORLD

MARKET FACTORS AND THIS HAS MEANT HIGHER PRICES, ESPECIALLY FOR MILK AND MEAT PRODUCTS, THE U.S. HAD NOT PROPERLY ASSESSED THE SITUATION WHEN IT MADE ITS DECISION IN JUNE ABOUT SOYBEANS. IT HAD OVERLOOKED FACTORS SUCH AS HOARDING BY COMMODITY DEALERS, LESSENING OF DEMAND AT HIGHER PRICES, AND THE BASIC DAMAGE WHICH U.S. MEASURES WOULD HAVE ON FREE TRADE PRINCIPLES. HE REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT COURAGE OF SECRETARY BUTZ IN REVERSING THE JUNE DECISIONS. LARDINOIS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL TO ALLEVIATE FUTURE PROTEIN SHORTAGES: HE SAID THE COMMUNITY MUST HAVE RESERVES, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, AND THAT IT MUST ATTEMPT NOT TO SHIFT THE BURDEN OF PROTEIN SUPPLIES TO CONSUMERS VIA HIGHER PRICES.

6. LOCATION OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS: A SERIES OF QUESTIONS, PRIMARILY FROM GERMAN SOCIALIST MEMBERS, WAS ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE COSTS INVOLVED IN MAINTAINING THE LOCATION OR MEETING PLACES OF INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITIES IN DIFFERENT CITIES (I.E. BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG AND STRASBOURG). ORTOLI BEGAN HIS REPLY BY POINTING OUT THAT SUCH QUESTIONS ARE NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF EITHER THE COMMISSION OR THE COUNCIL BUT ARISE FROM DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE MEMBER STATES THEMSELVES. HE WAS CAUTIOUS IN HIS RESPONSE, POINTING OUT THAT THE PRESENT DISPERSION OF THE INSTITUTIONS HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF INCREASING THE "PRESENCE OF EUROPE" AND ASKED WHETHER COMPLETE CENTRALIZATION WOULD BE ENTIRELY DESIRABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT FINAL DECISIONS REGARDING THE LOCATION OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ABOUT THE NATURE OF EUROPEAN UNITY. MANY MEMBERS TOOK PART IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, POINTING OUT THE EXPENSE, LOSS OF EFFICIENCY, AND UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC IMAGE CAUSED BY CONTINUING TRAVEL BETWEEN BRUSSELS, LUXEMBOURG AND STRASBOURG. HOWEVER, ORTOLI REPEATED FIRMLY TO EACH SPEAKER THAT SUCH QUESTIONS CANNOT BE SETTLED

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UNTIL THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY IS SETTLED AND THAT THE INSTITUTIONS ARE BOUND BY THE DECISIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES.

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